MARVEL COMICS
THE WORLD'S GREATEST COMIC MAGAZINE!
Fantastic Four
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A DARK SHADOW FROM THE PAST!
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THE FANTASTIC FOUR!

BEN GRIMM, THE THING! SUE RICHARDS, INVISIBLE WOMAN! JOHNNY STORM, THE HUMAN TORCH! TRANSFORMED BY AN ACCIDENT IN OUTER SPACE INTO SOMETHING MUCH MORE THAN HUMAN, THEY VOWED TO USE THEIR AWESOME POWERS TO HELP MANKIND CHART THE UNKNOWN. STAN LEE PRESENTS. . .

THE DAY IT'S RETURN
WE OPEN THIS INSTALLMENT OF THE WORLD'S MOST STARTLING COMIC BOOK SOMEWHERE IN AMERICA'S GREAT WESTERN DESERT...
...AS NATIVE AMERICAN WYATT WINGFOOT UNDERTAKES QUITE POSSIBLY THE MOST DANGEROUS RIDE OF HIS LIFE!
GOT TO BE CAREFUL! IF JUST ONE OF THOSE HEAT BLASTS HITS ME, I'LL BE ONE CRISPY CRITTER!
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TOM DEFALCO PLOT | PAUL RYAN PICTURES | MIKE LACKEY SCRIPT | DAN BULANADI INKS | STEVE DUTRO LETTERS | JOHN KALISZ COLORS | RALPH MACCHIO HATE MONGER

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COME ON, WYATT! I THOUGHT YOU WANTED A REAL WORKOUT!
INSTEAD, YOU'RE RIDING LIKE AN OLD LADY ON COUPON DAY!
SOME OF US AREN'T IMPERVIOUS TO FLAME, JOHNNY.
LOOK AT THOSE TWO, WHOOPING IT UP LIKE A COUPLE OF FRAT BOYS...
I GOTCHA GOIN' NOW! HA HA!
HA HA! I DON'T THINK SO, TORCH!
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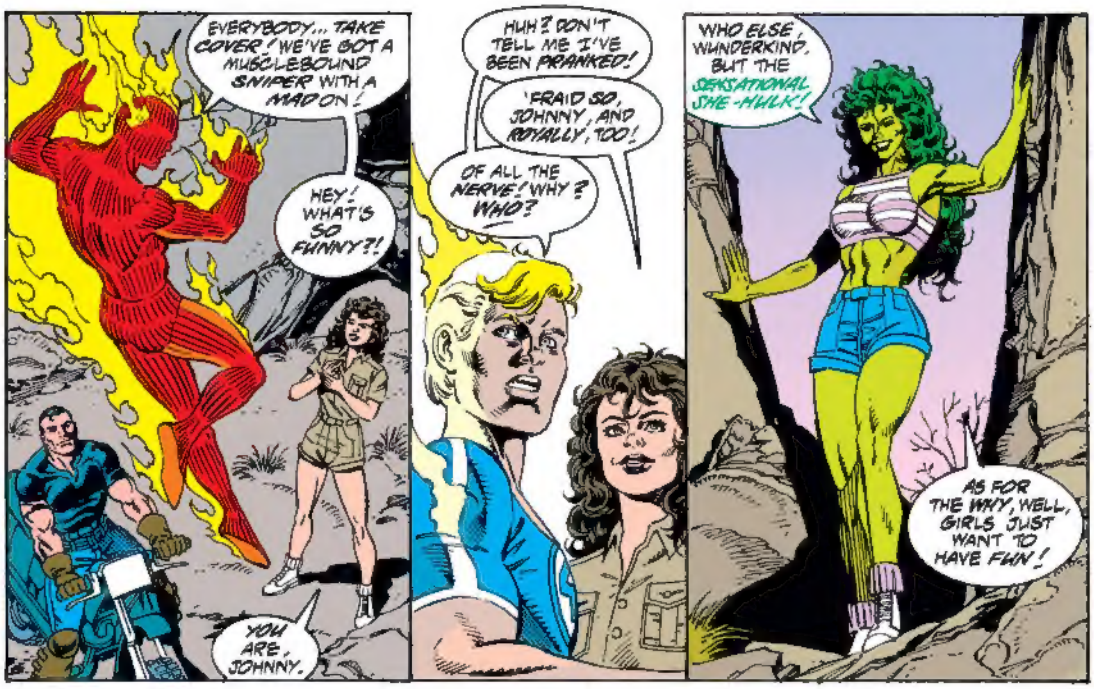
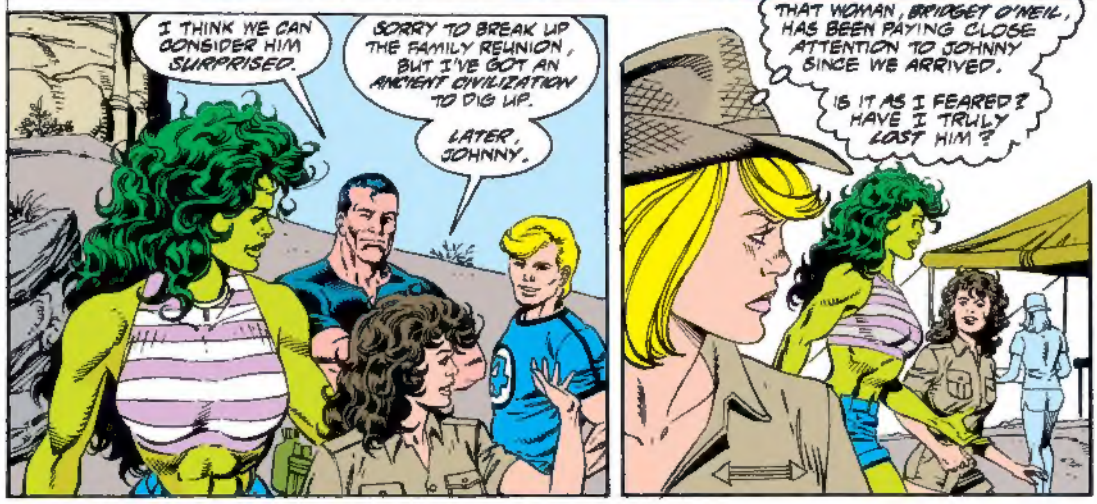
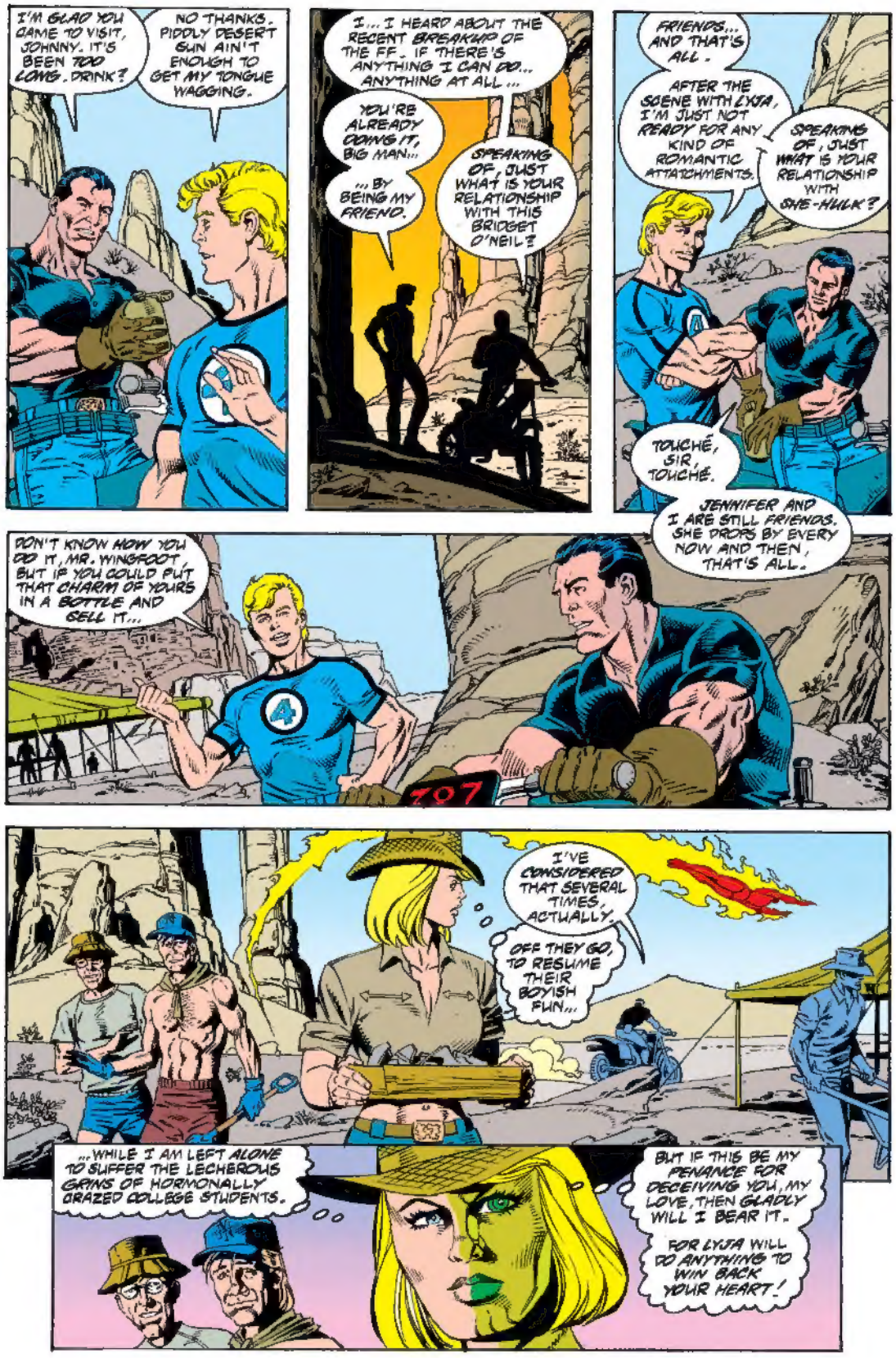
THESE GUYS ARE HAVING TOO MUCH FUN!
LET'S SEE IF I CAN'T THROW A SCARE INTO THEM!
THIS IS THE LIFE, HUH WYATT? HAHA!
WHAT'S THAT SOUND? LIKE A ROCKET HURTLING STRAIGHT...
SHOOOOOOM
AY CARAMBA!
WE'RE UNDER ATTACK! BUT BY WHOM?!

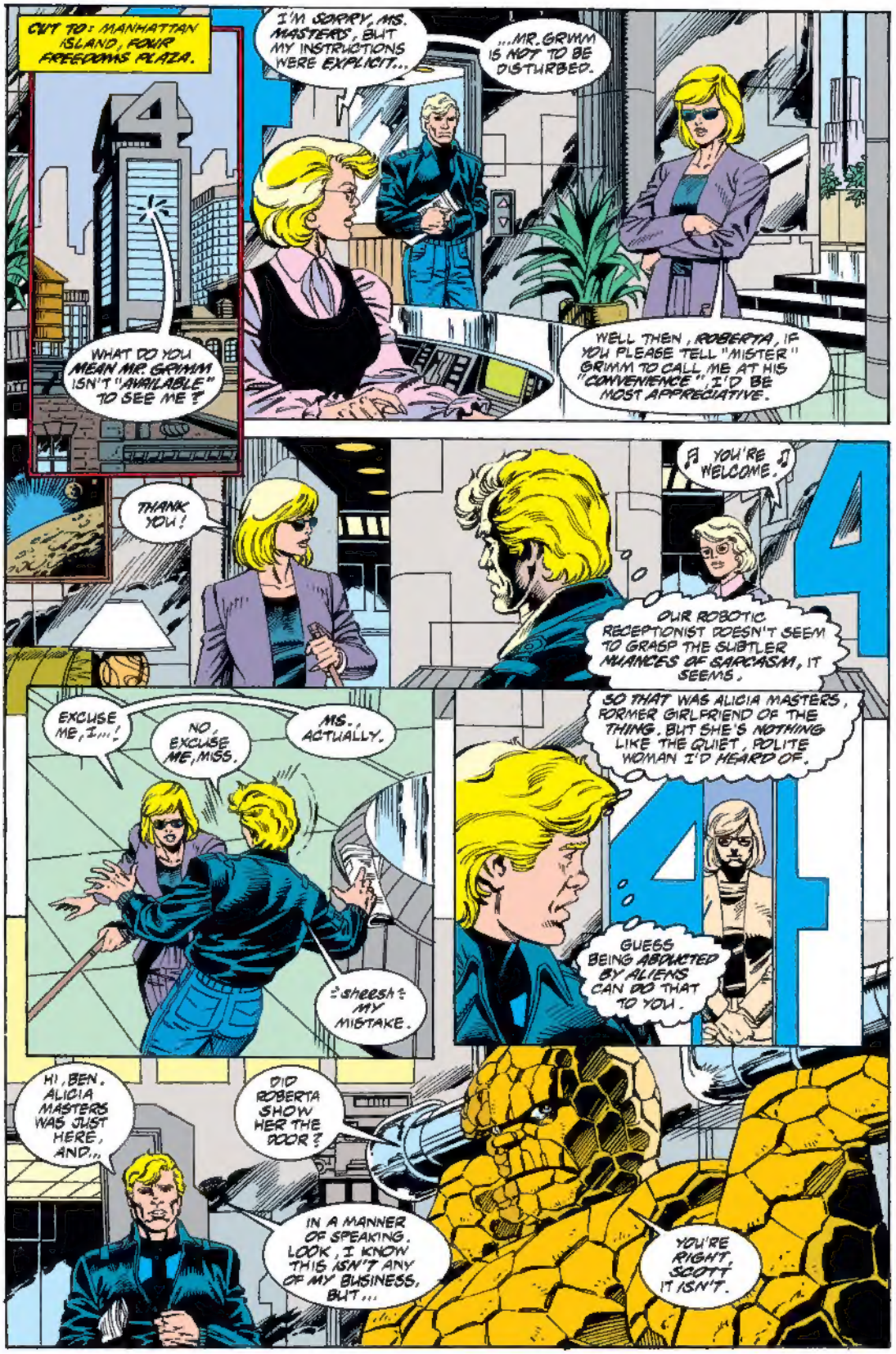

EVERYBODY... TAKE COVER! WE'VE GOT A MUSCLEBOUND SNIPER WITH A MAD ON!
HEY! WHAT'S SO FUNNY?!
YOU ARE, JOHNNY.
HUH? DON'T TELL ME I'VE BEEN PRANKED!
'FRAID SO, JOHNNY, AND ROYALLY, TOO!
OF ALL THE NERVE! WHY? WHO?
WHO ELSE, WUNDERKIND, BUT THE SEKSATIONAL SHE-HULK!
AS FOR THE WHY, WELL, GIRLS JUST WANT TO HAVE FUN!

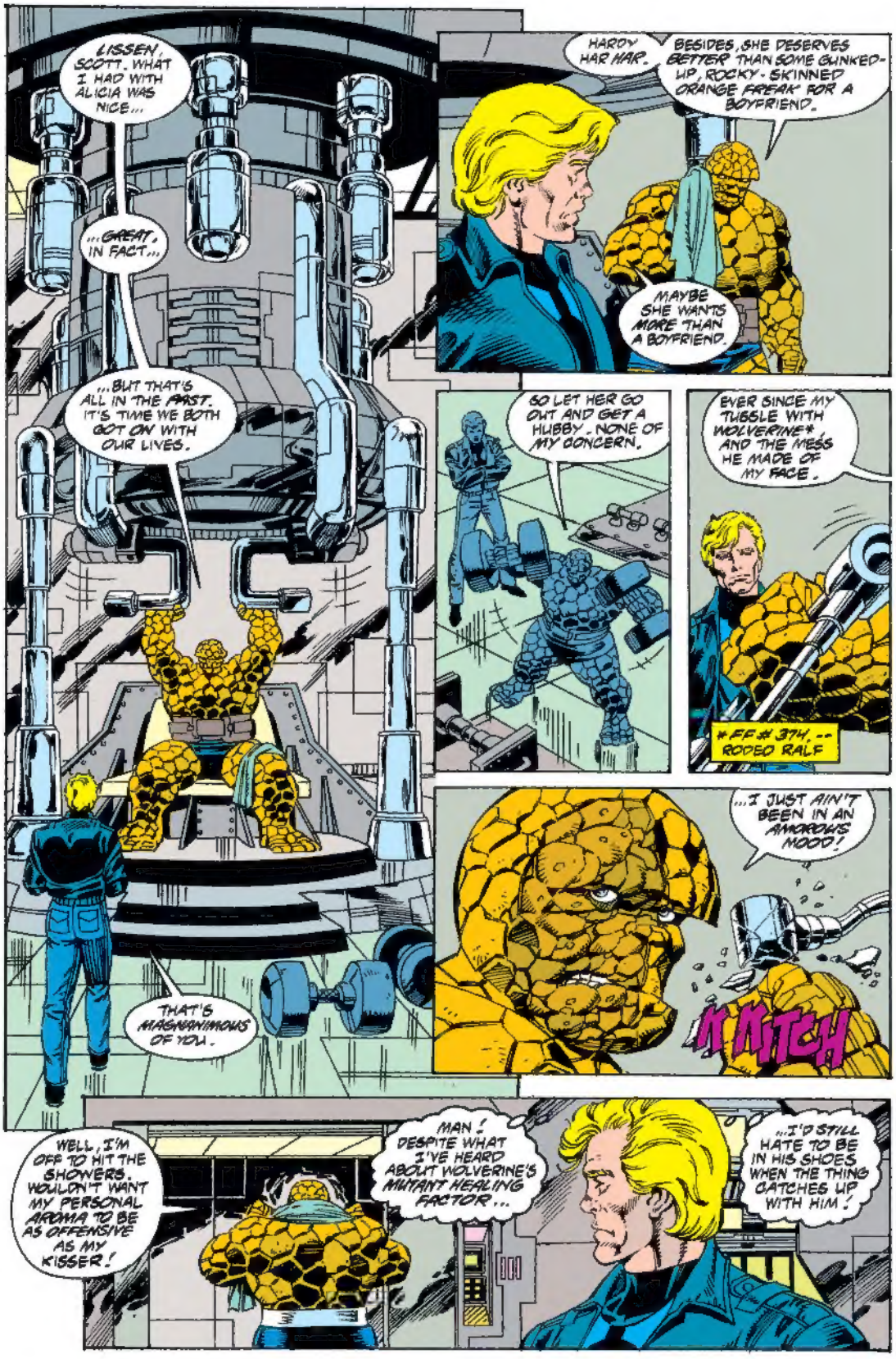
YEAH... USUALLY AT MY EXPENSE!
NONETHELESS, IT'S GREAT TO SEE YOU, SHULKY!
IT'S GREAT TO BE SEEN.
WHEN WYATT CALLED MY LAW OFFICE IN L.A. AND MENTIONED YOU WERE RIGHT HERE IN PHOENIX, I HOPPED A COMMUTER SHUTTLE TO SURPRISE YOU.


I THINK WE CAN CONSIDER HIM SURPRISED.
SORRY TO BREAK UP THE FAMILY REUNION, BUT I'VE GOT AN ANCIENT CIVILIZATION TO DIG UP.
LATER, JOHNNY.
THAT WOMAN, BRIDGET O'NEIL, HAS BEEN PAYING CLOSE ATTENTION TO JOHNNY SINCE WE ARRIVED.
IS IT AS I FEARED? HAVE I TRULY LOST HIM?

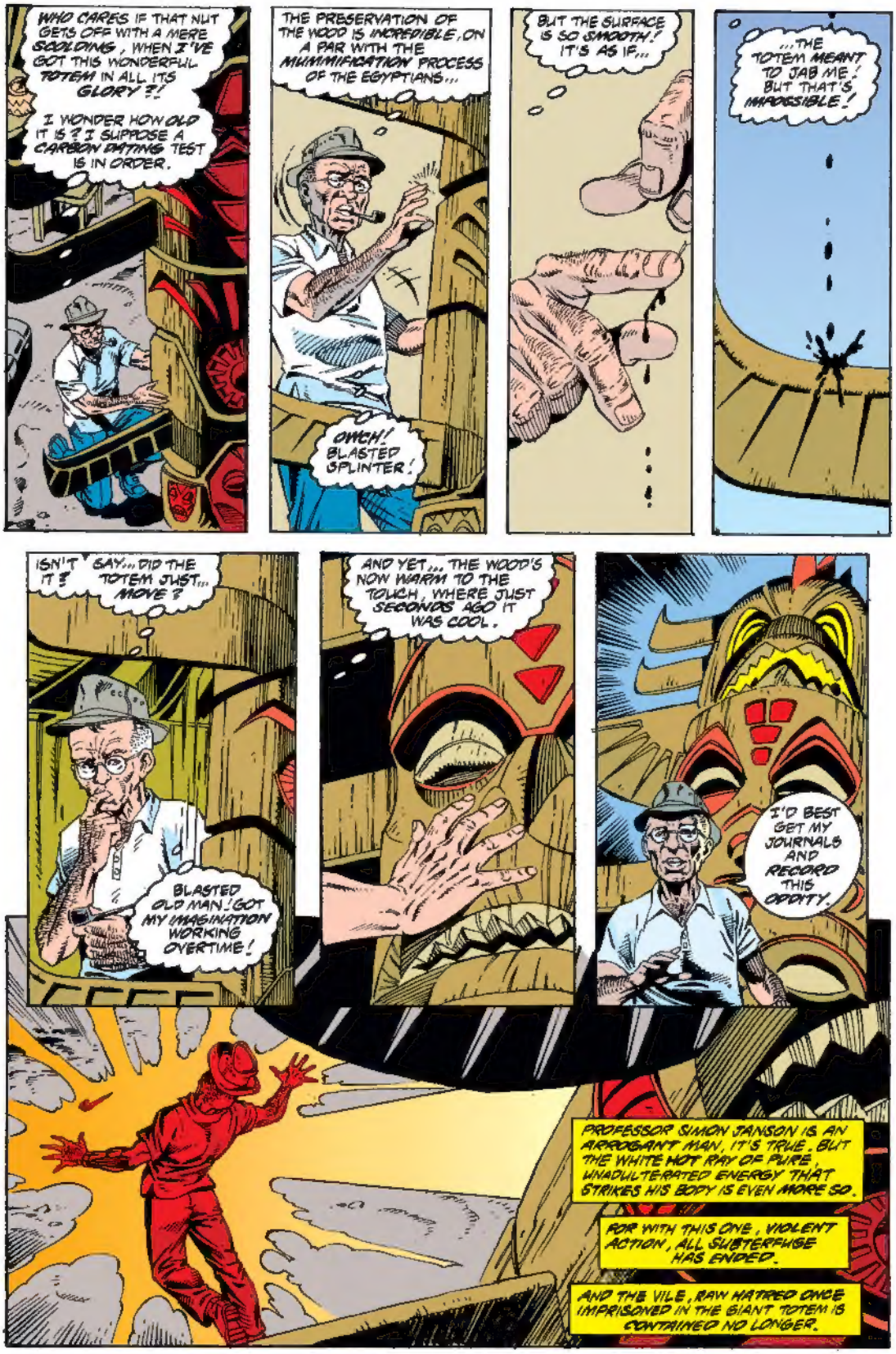

I'M GLAD YOU CAME TO VISIT, JOHNNY. IT'S BEEN TOO LONG. DRINK?
NO THANKS. PIDDLY DESERT SUN AIN'T ENOUGH TO GET MY TONGUE WAGGING.
I... I HEARD ABOUT THE RECENT BREAKUP OF THE FF. IF THERE'S ANYTHING I CAN DO... ANYTHING AT ALL...
YOU'RE ALREADY DOING IT, BIG MAN...
...BY BEING MY FRIEND.
SPEAKING OF, JUST WHAT IS YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH THIS BRIDGET O'NEIL?
FRIENDS... AND THAT'S ALL.
AFTER THE SCENE WITH LYJA, I'M JUST NOT READY FOR ANY KIND OF ROMANTIC ATTACHMENTS.
SPEAKING OF, JUST WHAT IS YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH SHE-HULK?
TOUCHÉ, SIR, TOUCHÉ.
JENNIFER AND I ARE STILL FRIENDS. SHE DROPS BY EVERY NOW AND THEN, THAT'S ALL.
DON'T KNOW HOW YOU DO IT, MR. WINGFOOT, BUT IF YOU COULD PUT THAT CHARM OF YOURS IN A BOTTLE AND SELL IT...
I'VE CONSIDERED THAT SEVERAL TIMES, ACTUALLY.
OFF THEY GO, TO RESUME THEIR BOYISH FUN...
...WHILE I AM LEFT ALONE TO SUFFER THE LECHEROUS GRINS OF HORMONALLY CRAZED COLLEGE STUDENTS.
BUT IF THIS BE MY PENANCE FOR DECEIVING YOU, MY LOVE, THEN GLADLY WILL I BEAR IT.
FOR LYJA WILL DO ANYTHING TO WIN BACK YOUR HEART!

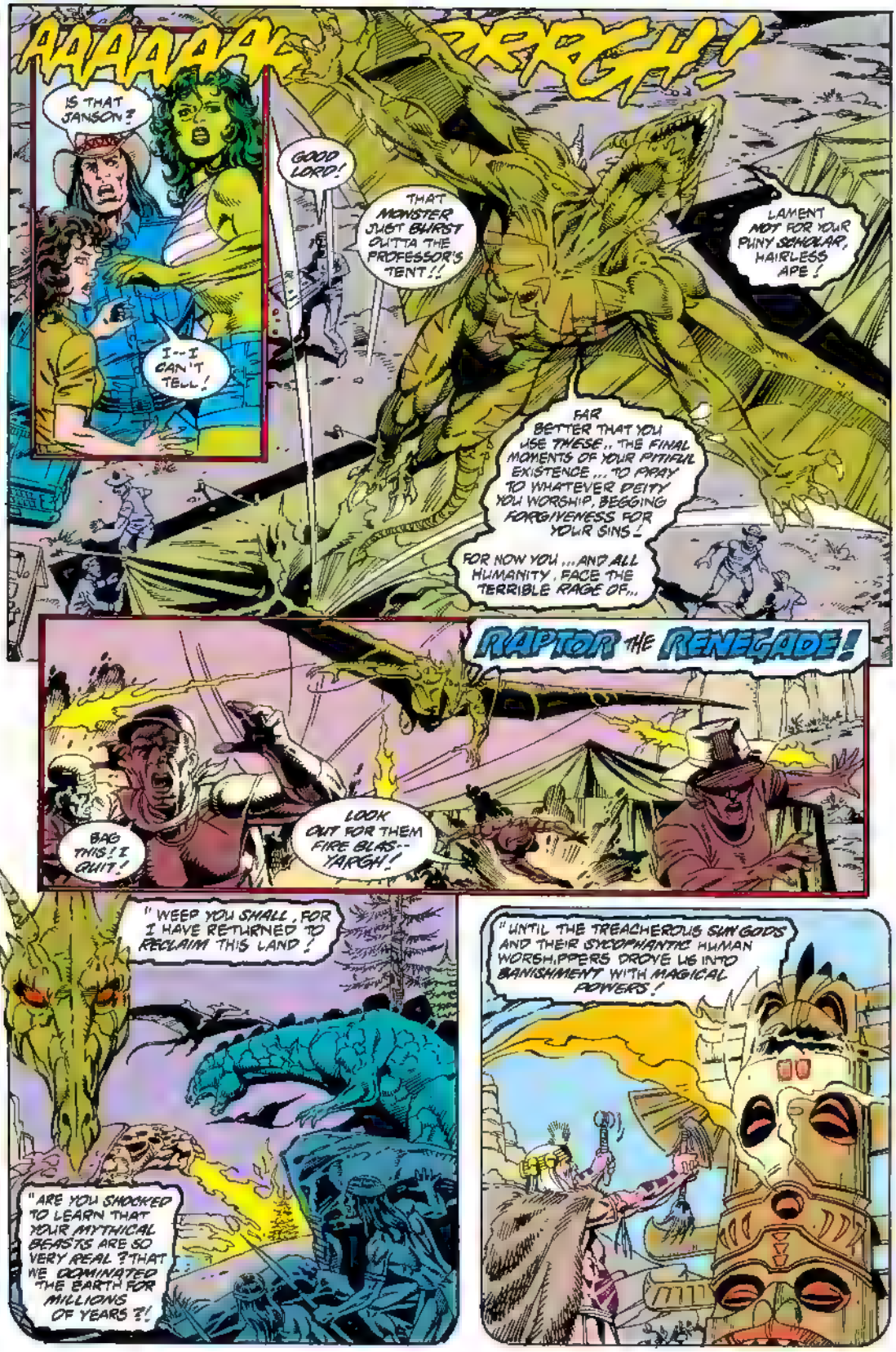
MEANWHILE...
DO YOU HEAR SOMEONE SNOOPING?
YES. I WONDER WHAT'S HAPPENING?
PROFESSOR SIMON JANSON, YOU AND YOUR STUDENTS ARE TREADING UPON HALLOWED GROUND!
YOU MUST LEAVE THIS PLACE... FOR ALL OUR SAKES!
ARROGANT FOOL!
NOW LISTEN HERE CHIEF STALKING FOX! MY COLLEAGUE HAS THE FULL SUPPORT OF THE LOCAL TRIBAL COUNCIL!
AND FRANKLY I DON'T FIND THE SUPERSTITIOUS DRIVEL OF SOME SENILE OLD MAN ALL THAT INTERESTING!
PROFESSOR... COME QUICK! WE'VE FOUND SOMETHING!
THIS COULD BE IT... THE CULMINATION OF MY LIFE'S WORK!
LET'S NOT GET OUR HOPES TOO HIGH, PROF!
OVER HERE!
WHAT IS IT?
PART OF AN ANCIENT TOTEM! THE REST IS YET TO BE UNEARTHED!
WE'LL NEED MORE TOOLS! MORE MEN!
YOU MUST NOT PROCEED WITH THIS FOOL'S ERRAND...
...OR ALL THE TOOLS AND MEN ON EARTH WILL BE UNABLE TO SPARE YOU THE WRATH OF...
RAPTOR THE RENEGADE!!

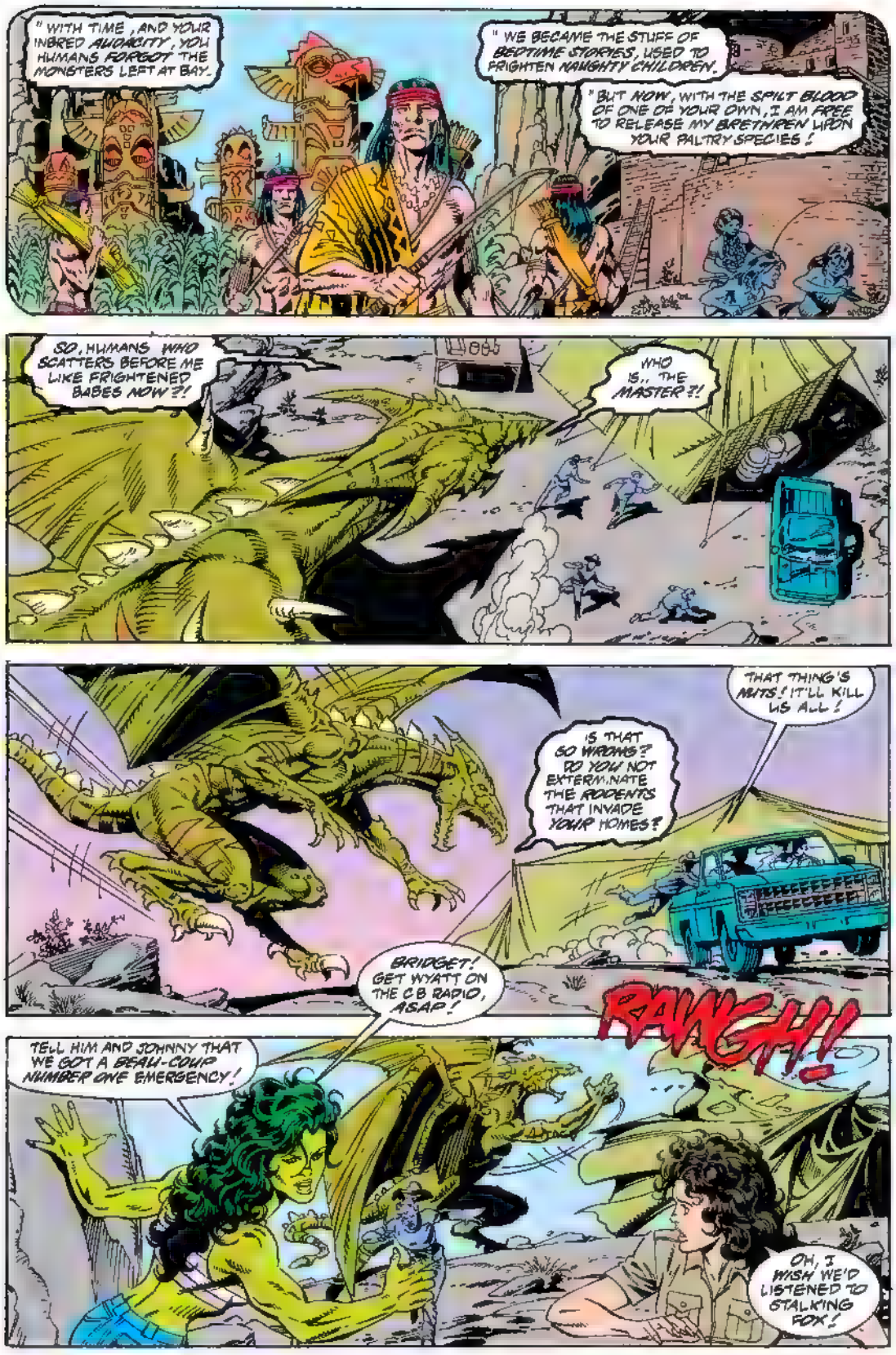

CUT TO: MANHATTAN ISLAND, FOUR FREEDOMS PLAZA.
I'M SORRY, MS. MASTERS, BUT MY INSTRUCTIONS WERE EXPLICIT...
...MR. GRYMM IS NOT TO BE DISTURBED.
WELL THEN, ROBERTA, IF YOU PLEASE TELL "MISTER" GRIMM TO CALL ME AT HIS "CONVENIENCE", I'D BE MOST APPRECIATIVE.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN MR. GRYMM ISN'T "AVAILABLE" TO SEE ME?
THANK YOU!
♫ YOU'RE WELCOME. ♫
OUR ROBOTIC RECEPTIONIST DOESN'T SEEM TO GRASP THE SUBTLER NUANCES OF SARCASM, IT SEEMS.
EXCUSE ME, I...!
NO, EXCUSE ME, MISS.
MS., ACTUALLY.
:sheesh: MY MISTAKE.
SO THAT WAS ALICIA MASTERS, FORMER GIRLFRIEND OF THE THING. BUT SHE'S NOTHING LIKE THE QUIET, POLITE WOMAN I'D HEARD OF.
GUESS BEING ABDUCTED BY ALIENS CAN DO THAT TO YOU.
HI, BEN. ALICIA MASTERS WAS JUST HERE, AND...
DID ROBERTA SHOW HER THE DOOR?
IN A MANNER OF SPEAKING. LOOK, I KNOW THIS ISN'T ANY OF MY BUSINESS, BUT...
YOU'RE RIGHT, SCOTT. IT ISN'T.

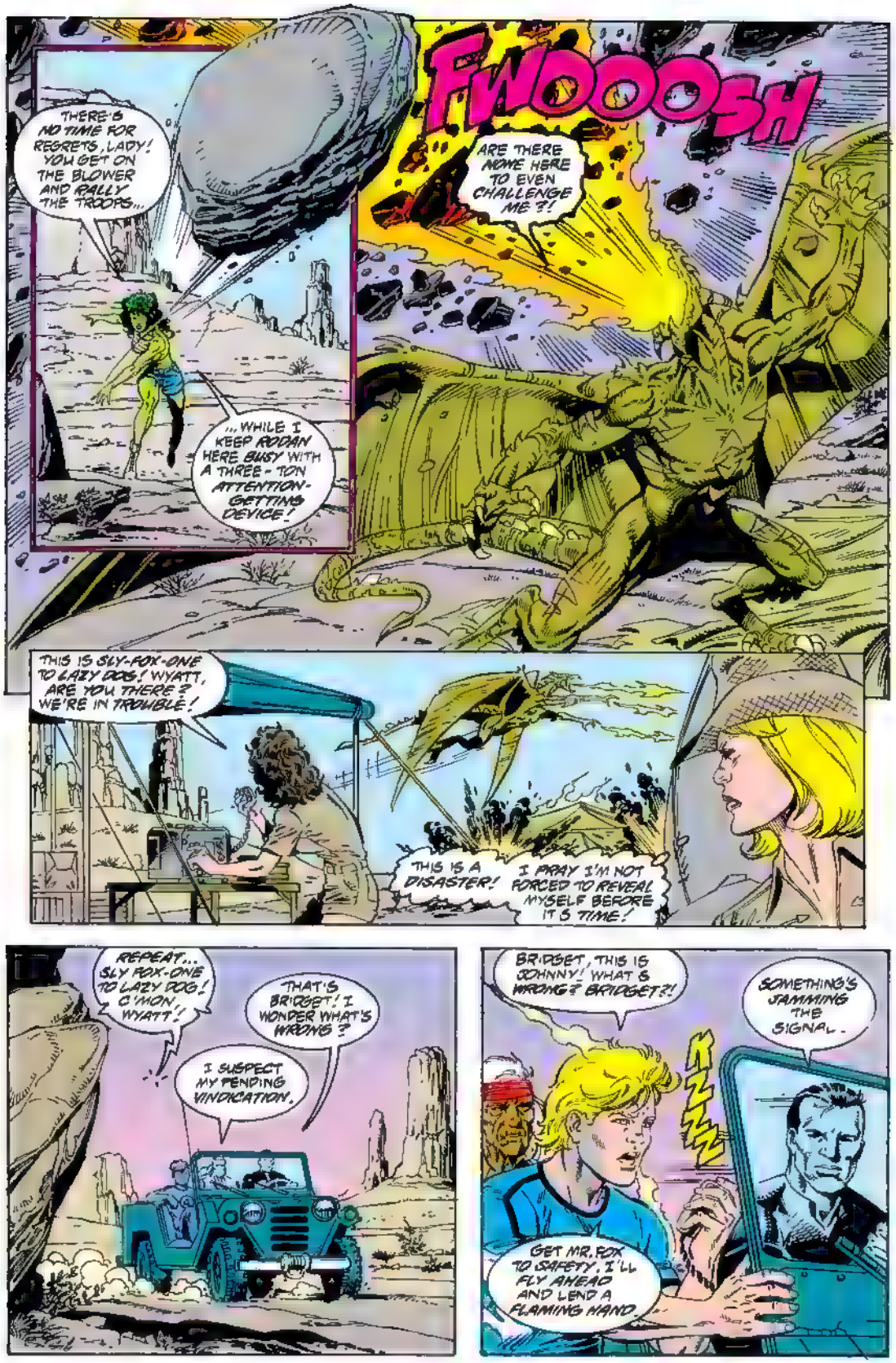

LISSEN, SCOTT. WHAT I HAD WITH ALICIA WAS NICE...
...GREAT, IN FACT...
...BUT THAT'S ALL IN THE PAST. IT'S TIME WE BOTH GOT ON WITH OUR LIVES.
THAT'S MAGNANIMOUS OF YOU.
HARDY HAR HAR.
BESIDES, SHE DESERVES BETTER THAN SOME GUNKED-UP, ROCKY-SKINNED ORANGE FREAK FOR A BOYFRIEND.
MAYBE SHE WANTS MORE THAN A BOYFRIEND.
SO LET HER GO OUT AND GET A HUBBY. NONE OF MY CONCERN.
EVER SINCE MY TUSSLE WITH WOLVERINE* AND THE MESS HE MADE OF MY FACE.
*FF #374, -- RODEO RALF
...I JUST AIN'T BEEN IN AN AMOROUS MOOD!
KRITCH
WELL, I'M OFF TO HIT THE SHOWERS. WOULDN'T WANT MY PERSONAL AROMA TO BE AS OFFENSIVE AS MY KISSER!
MAN! DESPITE WHAT I'VE HEARD ABOUT WOLVERINE'S MUTANT HEALING FACTOR...
...I'D STILL HATE TO BE IN HIS SHOES WHEN THE THING CATCHES UP WITH HIM!

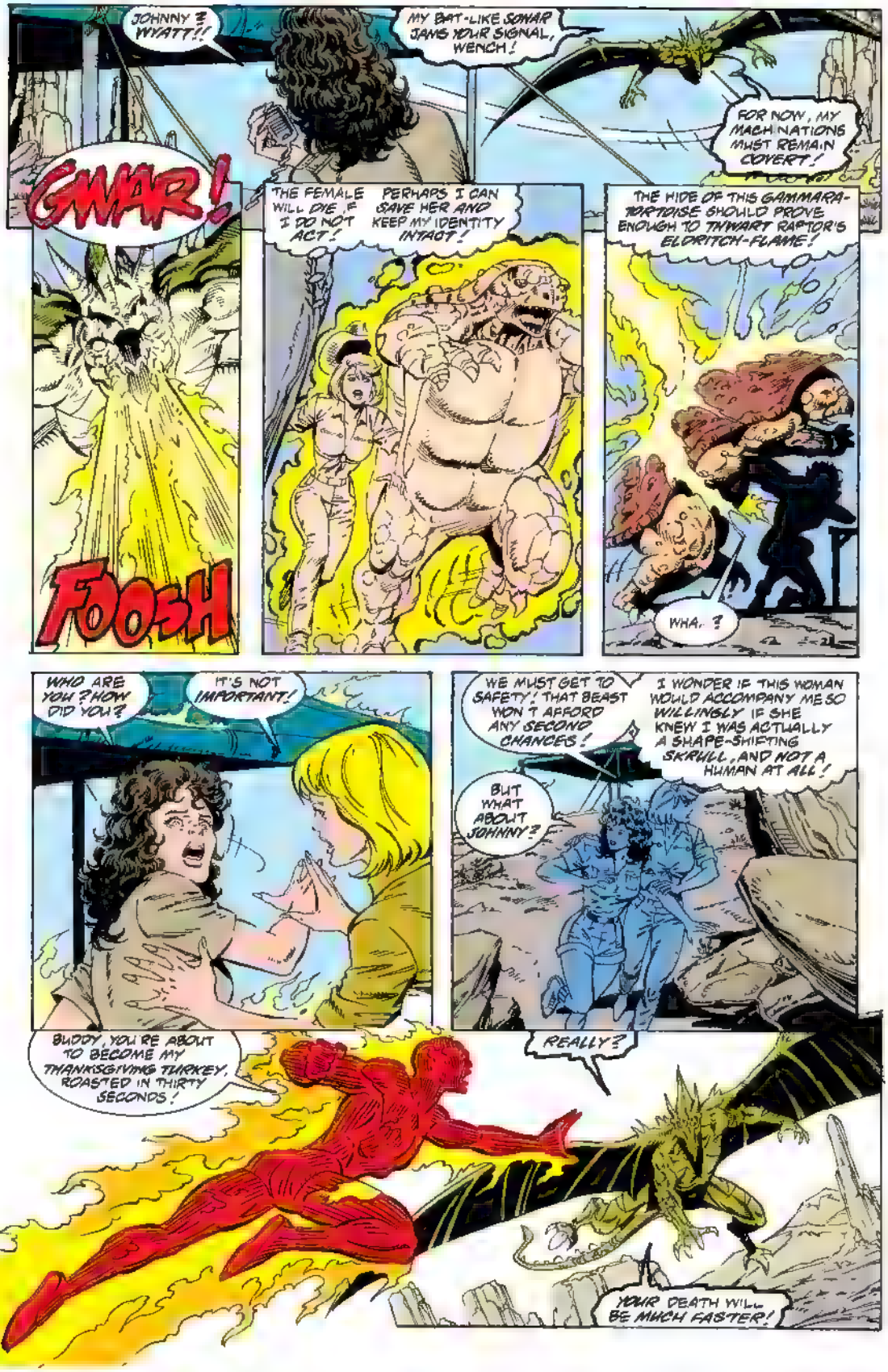
BACK AT THE DIG.
JUST CALM DOWN, OLD-TIMER, OKAY?
YOU'RE JUST LIKE ALL THE OTHERS, OFFICER CHAVIS!
DID YOU LEAVE YOUR CULTURE BEHIND AT THE WHITE MAN'S SCHOOLS?!
LISTEN, FOX, THE TRIBAL COUNCIL GAVE THEIR PERMISSION TO DIG. END OF STORY
I WANT THE OLD COOT LOCKED UP!
PLEASE, OFFICER CHAVIS, LET ME DRIVE STALKING FOX HOME.
I DON'T WANT YOU TO!
COME ON, STALKING FOX. I'VE KNOWN YOU SINCE I WAS A BOY... I DON'T WANT TO ARREST YOU.
WOULD YOU PLEASE GO WITH MR. WINGFOOT?
THIS IS ABSURD! YOU JUST DON'T WANT TO FILL OUT A BATCH OF PAPERWORK!
CRAZY OLD INDIAN...OH, EXCUSE ME, "NATIVE AMERICAN!" IF ANYONE NEEDS ME, I'LL BE IN MY TENT!
MAN! THIS GUY MAKES J. JONAH JAMESON LOOK LIKE HUMANITARIAN OF THE YEAR!
:Harumph:
LOUSY BLEEDING HEARTS! NOBODY UNDERSTANDS--
--THE IMPORTANCE OF MY WORK! THIS FIND WILL BRING IN MILLIONS IN GRANTS!
I'LL BE FAMOUS! EVEN BETTER...
...I'LL BE RICH!

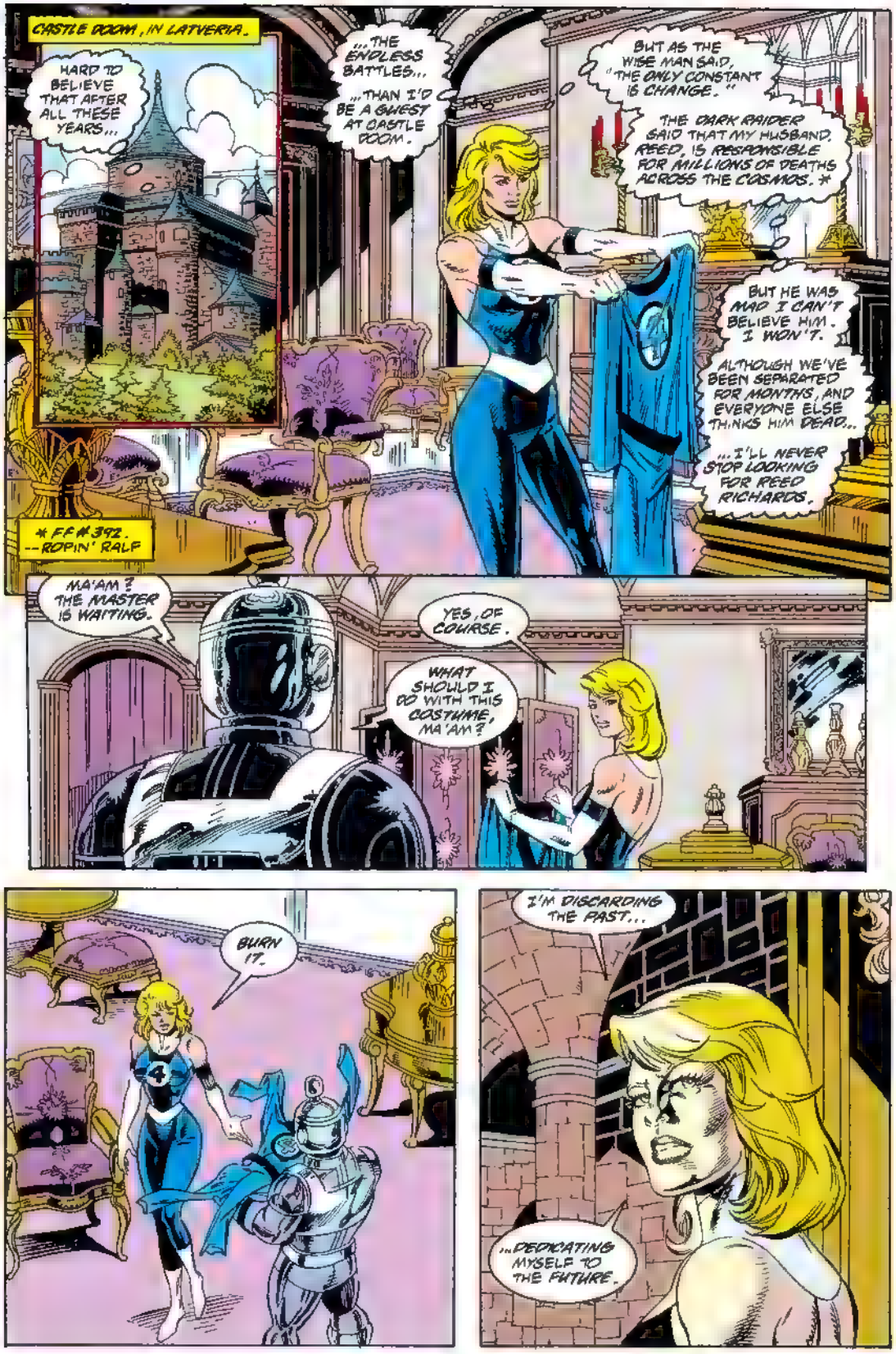

WHO CARES IF THAT NUT GETS OFF WITH A MERE SCOLDING, WHEN I'VE GOT THIS WONDERFUL TOTEM IN ALL ITS GLORY?!
I WONDER HOW OLD IT IS? I SUPPOSE A CARBON DATING TEST IS IN ORDER.
THE PRESERVATION OF THE WOOD IS INCREDIBLE, ON A PAR WITH THE MUMMIFICATION PROCESS OF THE EGYPTIANS...
OWCH! BLASTED SPLINTER!
BUT THE SURFACE IS SO SMOOTH! IT'S AS IF...
...THE TOTEM MEANT TO JAB ME! BUT THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE!
ISN'T IT? SAY... DID THE TOTEM JUST... MOVE?
BLASTED OLD MAN! GOT MY IMAGINATION WORKING OVERTIME!
AND YET... THE WOOD'S NOW WARM TO THE TOUCH, WHERE JUST SECONDS AGO IT WAS COOL.
I'D BEST GET MY JOURNALS AND RECORD THIS ODDITY.
PROFESSOR SIMON JANSON IS AN ARROGANT MAN, IT'S TRUE. BUT THE WHITE HOT RAY OF PURE, UNADULTERATED ENERGY THAT STRIKES HIS BODY IS EVEN MORE SO.
FOR WITH THIS ONE, VIOLENT ACTION, ALL SUBTERFUGE HAS ENDED.
AND THE VILE, RAW HATRED ONCE IMPRISONED IN THE GIANT TOTEM IS CONTAINED NO LONGER.

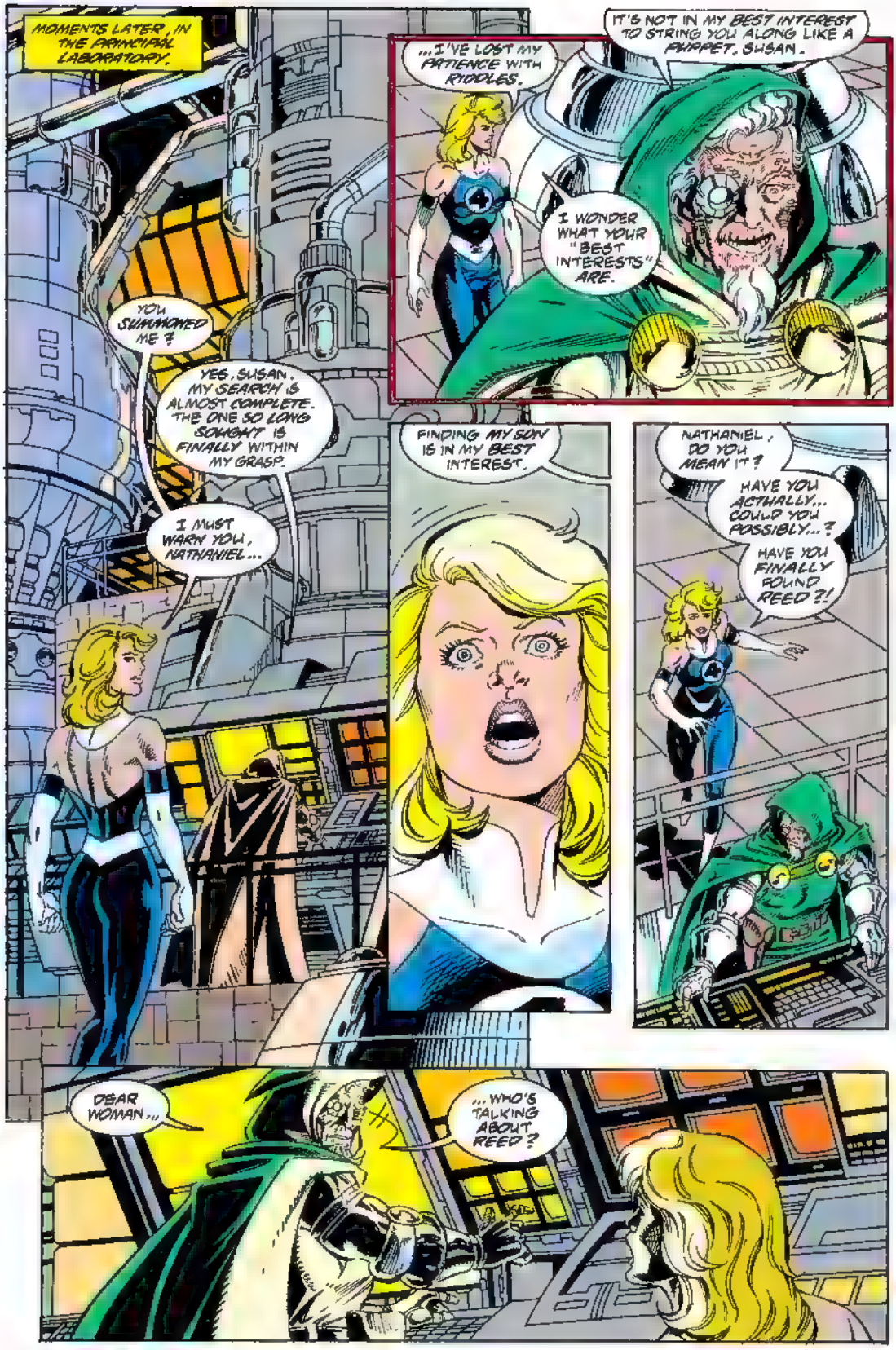

AAAAAAAARGH!
IS THAT JANSON?
I--I CAN'T TELL!
GOOD LORD!
THAT MONSTER JUST BURST OUTTA THE PROFESSOR'S TENT!!
LAMENT NOT FOR YOUR PUNY SCHOLAR, HAIRLESS APE!
FAR BETTER THAT YOU USE THESE... THE FINAL MOMENTS OF YOUR PITIFUL EXISTENCE... TO PRAY TO WHATEVER DEITY YOU WORSHIP, BEGGING FORGIVENESS FOR YOUR SINS!
FOR NOW YOU ...AND ALL HUMANITY, FACE THE TERRIBLE RAGE OF...
RAPTOR THE RENEGADE!
BAG THIS! I QUIT!
LOOK OUT FOR THEM FIRE BLAS-- YARGH!
"WEEP YOU SMALL, FOR I HAVE RETURNED TO RECLAIM THIS LAND!
"ARE YOU SHOCKED TO LEARN THAT YOUR MYTHICAL BEASTS ARE SO VERY REAL? THAT WE DOMINATED THE EARTH FOR MILLIONS OF YEARS?!
"UNTIL THE TREACHEROUS SUN GODS AND THEIR SYCOPHANTIC HUMAN WORSHIPPERS DROVE US INTO BANISHMENT WITH MAGICAL POWERS!

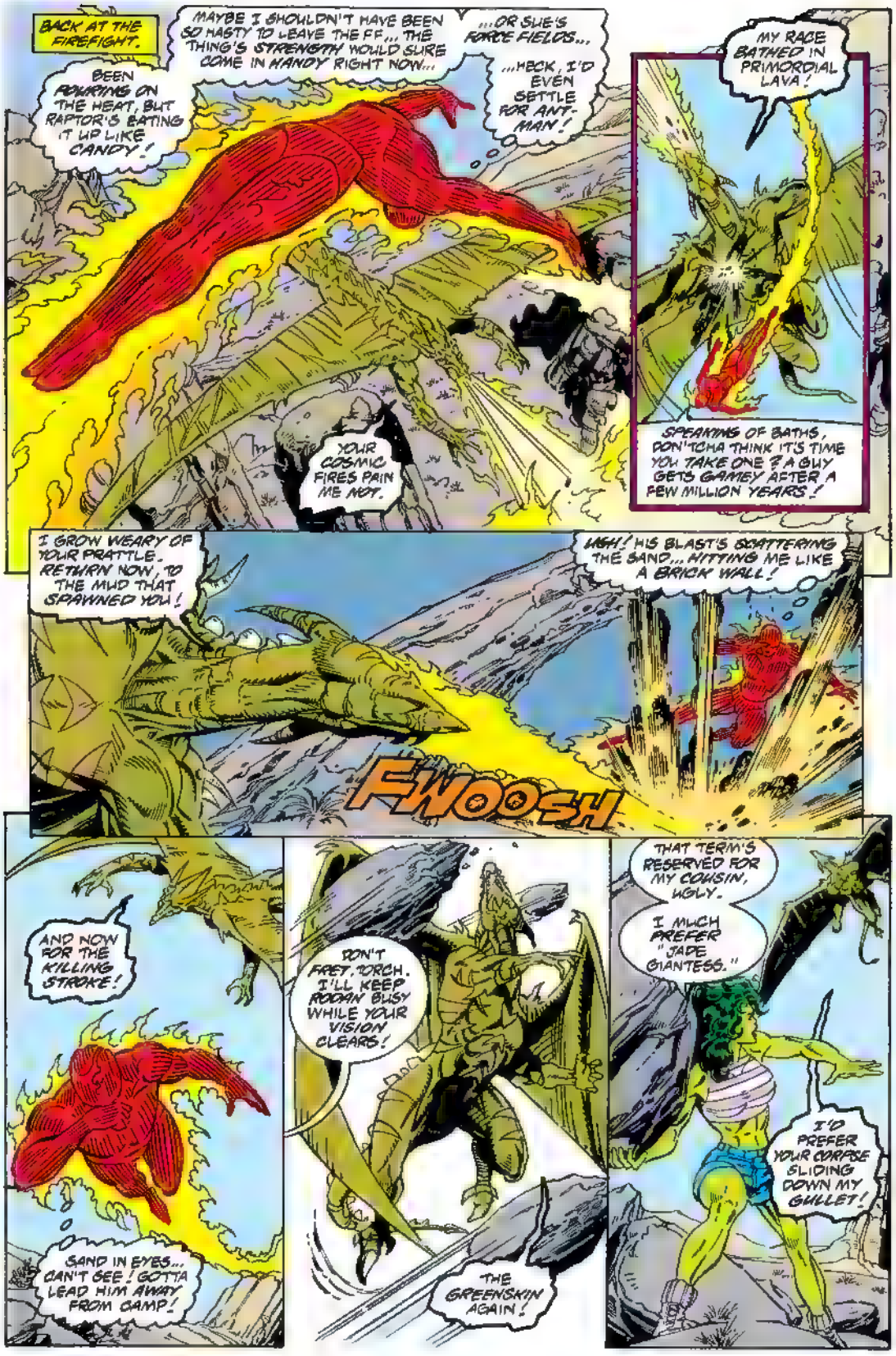

" WITH TIME, AND YOUR INBRED AUDACITY, YOU HUMANS FORGOT THE MONSTERS LEFT AT BAY.
" WE BECAME THE STUFF OF BEDTIME STORIES, USED TO FRIGHTEN NAUGHTY CHILDREN.
" BUT NOW, WITH THE SPILT BLOOD OF ONE OF YOUR OWN, I AM FREE TO RELEASE MY BRETHREN UPON YOUR PALTRY SPECIES!
SO, HUMANS WHO SCATTERS BEFORE ME LIKE FRIGHTENED BABES NOW?!
WHO IS,, THE MASTER?!
THAT THING'S NUTS! IT'LL KILL US ALL!
IS THAT SO WRONG? DO YOU NOT EXTERM\NATE THE RODENTS THAT INVADE YOUR HOMES?
BRIDGET! GET WYATT ON THE C.B RADIO, ASAP!
RAWGH!!
TELL HIM AND JOHNNY THAT WE GOT A BEAU-COUP NUMBER ONE EMERGENCY!
OH, I WISH WE'D LISTENED TO STALKING FOX!

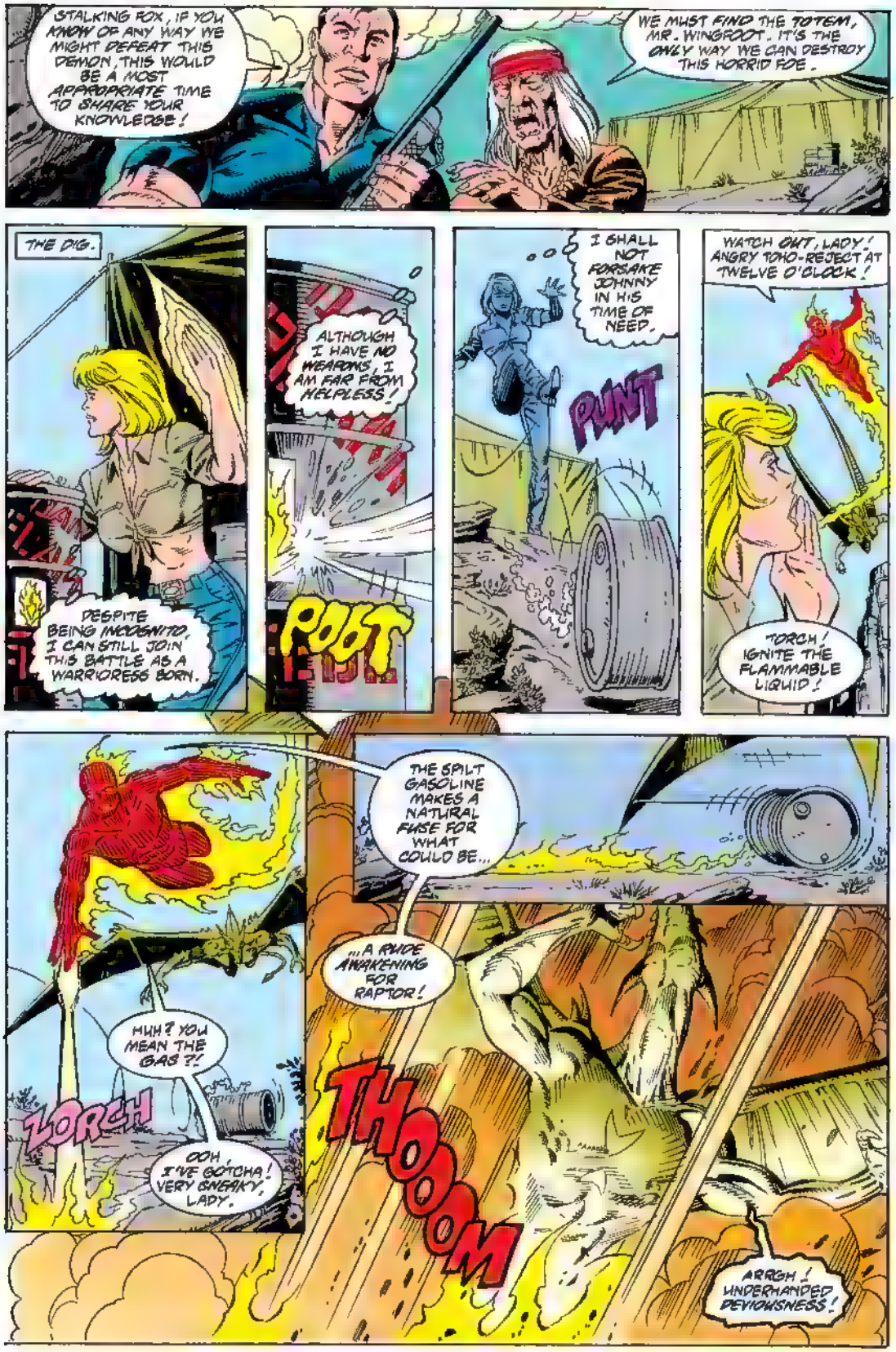

THERE'S NO TIME FOR REGRETS, LADY! YOU GET ON THE BLOWER AND RALLY THE TROOPS..
..WHILE I KEEP RODAN HERE BUSY WITH A THREE-TON ATTENTION-GETTING DEVICE!
FWOOOSH
ARE THERE NONE HERE TO EVEN CHALLENGE ME?!
THIS IS SLY-FOX-ONE TO LAZY DOG! WYATT, ARE YOU THERE? WE'RE IN TROUBLE!
THIS IS A DISASTER!
I PRAY I'M NOT FORCED TO REVEAL MYSELF BEFORE IT'S TIME!
REPEAT... SLY FOX-ONE TO LAZY DOG! C'MON, WYATT!
THAT'S BRIDGET! I WONDER WHAT'S WRONG?
I SUSPECT MY PENDING VINDICATION.
BRIDGET, THIS IS JOHNNY! WHAT'S WRONG? BRIDGET?!
SOMETHING'S JAMMING THE SIGNAL.
KZZZ
GET MR. FOX TO SAFETY. I'LL FLY AHEAD AND LEND A FLAMING HAND.


JOHNNY & WYATT!!
MY BAT-LIKE SONAR JAMS YOUR SIGNAL, WENCH!
FOR NOW, MY MACHINATIONS MUST REMAIN COVERT!
GWAR!
FOOSH
THE FEMALE WILL DIE IF I DO NOT ACT!
PERHAPS I CAN SAVE HER AND KEEP MY IDENTITY INTACT!
THE HIDE OF THIS GAMMARA-TORTOISE SHOULD PROVE ENOUGH TO THWART RAPTOR'S ELDRITCH-FLAME!
WHA..?
WHO ARE YOU? HOW DID YOU?
IT'S NOT IMPORTANT!
WE MUST GET TO SAFETY! THAT BEAST WON'T AFFORD ANY SECOND CHANCES!
I WONDER IF THIS WOMAN WOULD ACCOMPANY ME SO WILLINGLY IF SHE KNEW I WAS ACTUALLY A SHAPE-SHIFTING SKRULL, AND NOT A HUMAN AT ALL!
BUT WHAT ABOUT JOHNNY?
BUDDY, YOU'RE ABOUT TO BECOME MY THANKSGIVING TURKEY, ROASTED IN THIRTY SECONDS!
REALLY?
YOUR DEATH WILL BE MUCH FASTER!


CASTLE DOOM, IN LATVERIA.
HARD TO BELIEVE THAT AFTER ALL THESE YEARS...
...THE ENDLESS BATTLES...
...THAN I'D BE A GUEST AT CASTLE DOOM.
BUT AS THE WISE MAN SAID, "THE ONLY CONSTANT IS CHANGE."
THE DARK RAIDER SAID THAT MY HUSBAND, REED, IS RESPONSIBLE FOR MILLIONS OF DEATHS ACROSS THE COSMOS. *
BUT HE WAS MAD I CAN'T BELIEVE HIM. I WON'T.
ALTHOUGH WE'VE BEEN SEPARATED FOR MONTHS, AND EVERYONE ELSE THINKS HIM DEAD...
...I'LL NEVER STOP LOOKING FOR REED RICHARDS.
* FF #392. --ROPIN' RALF
MA'AM? THE MASTER IS WAITING.
YES, OF COURSE.
WHAT SHOULD I DO WITH THIS COSTUME, MA'AM?
BURN IT.
I'M DISCARDING THE PAST...
...DEDICATING MYSELF TO THE FUTURE.

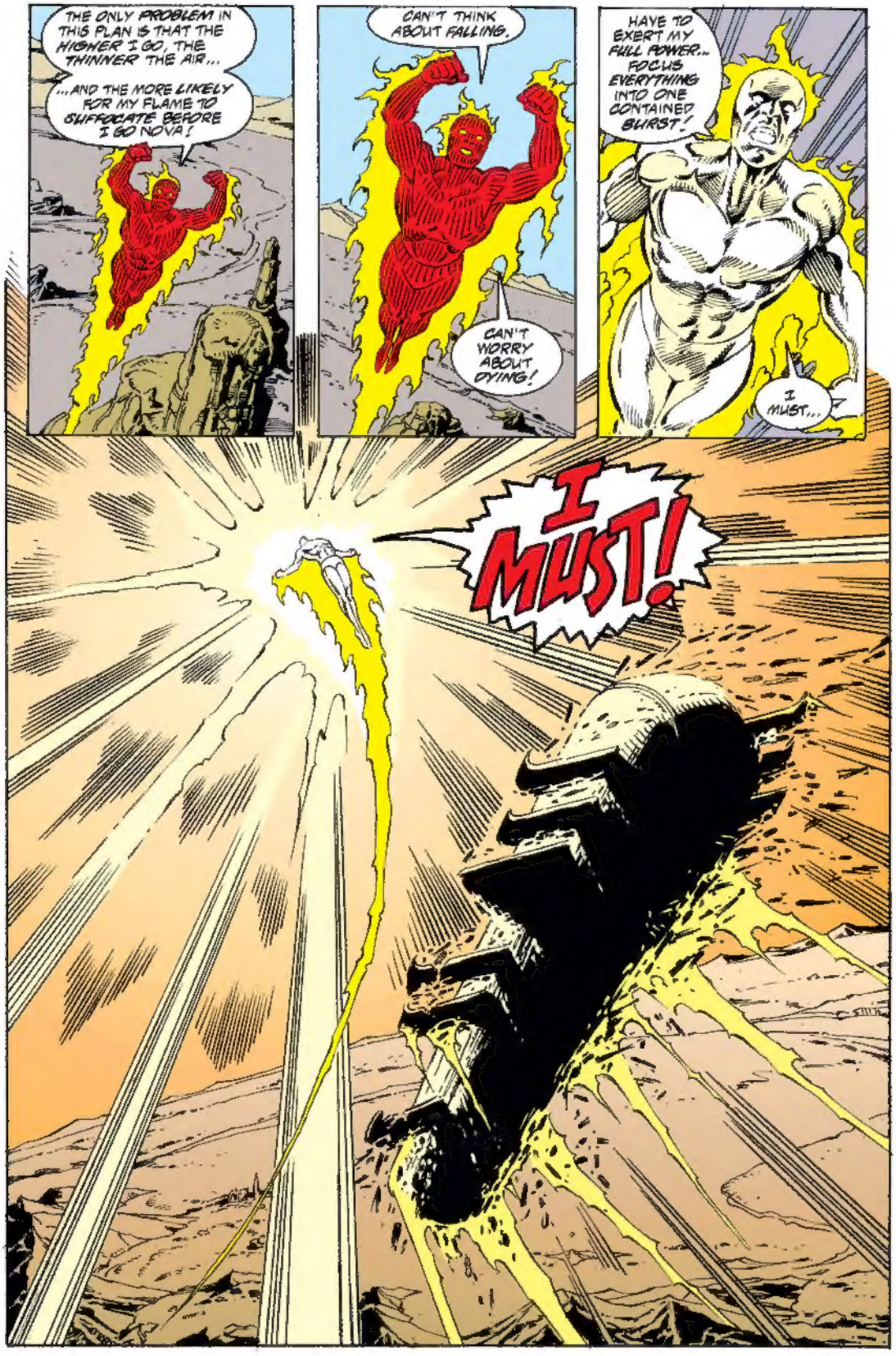

MOMENTS LATER, IN THE PRINCIPAL LABORATORY.
YOU SUMMONED ME?
YES, SUSAN. MY SEARCH IS ALMOST COMPLETE. THE ONE SO LONG SOUGHT IS FINALLY WITHIN MY GRASP.
I MUST WARN YOU, NATHANIEL...
...I'VE LOST MY PATIENCE WITH RIDDLES.
I WONDER WHAT YOUR "BEST INTERESTS" ARE.
IT'S NOT IN MY BEST INTEREST TO STRING YOU ALONG LIKE A PUPPET, SUSAN.
FINDING MY SON IS IN MY BEST INTEREST.
NATHANIEL, DO YOU MEAN IT?
HAVE YOU ACTHALLY... COULD YOU POSSIBLY...?
HAVE YOU FINALLY FOUND REED?!
DEAR WOMAN...
...WHO'S TALKING ABOUT REED?

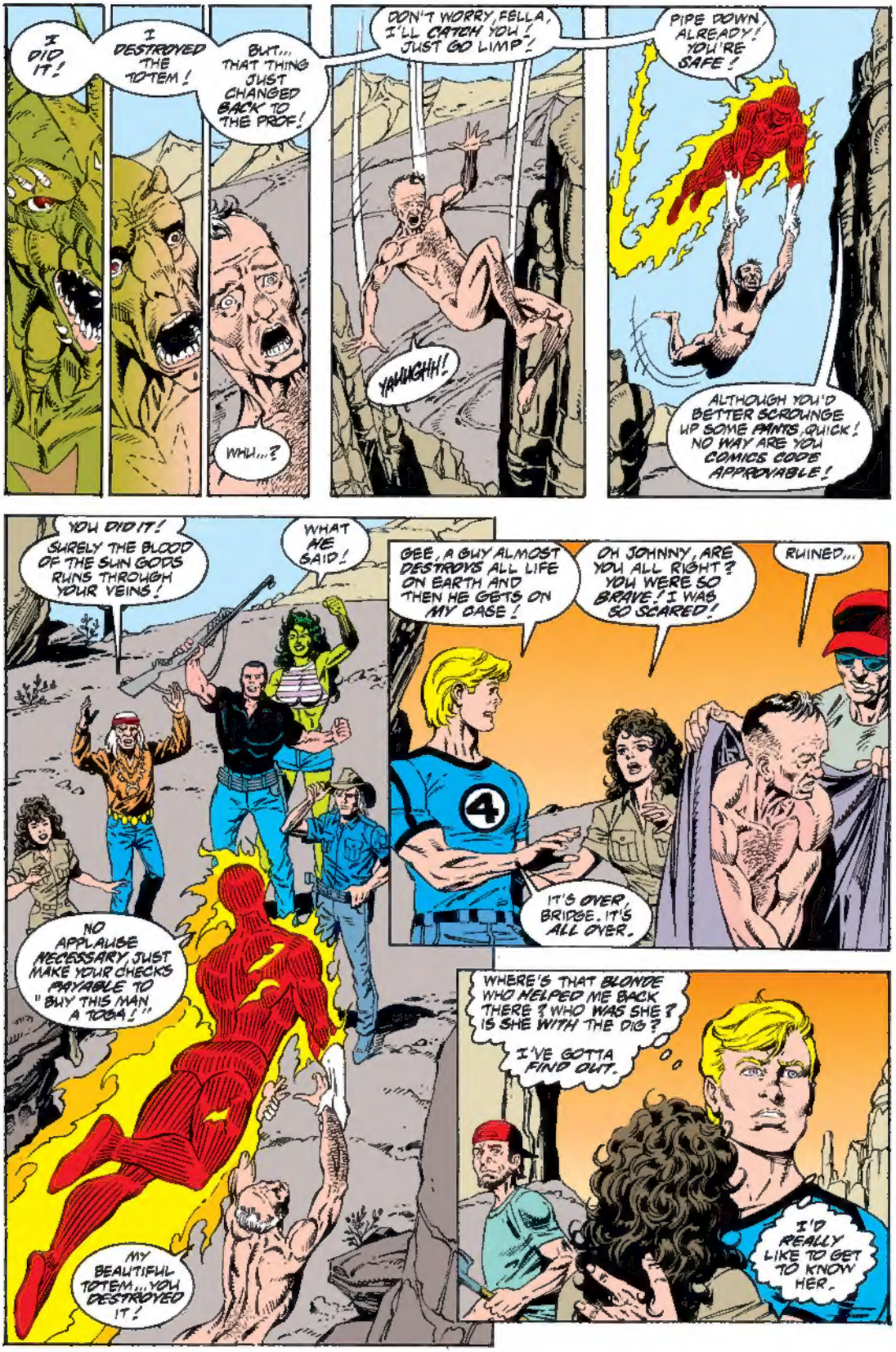

BACK AT THE FIREFIGHT.
BEEN ROASTING ON THE HEAT, BUT RAPTOR'S BATING IT UP LIKE CANDY!
MAYBE I SHOULDN'T HAVE BEEN SO HASTY TO LEAVE THE FF... THE THING'S STRENGTH WOULD SURE COME IN HANDY RIGHT NOW...
...OR SUE'S FORCE FIELDS...
...HECK, I'D EVEN SETTLE FOR ANT-MAN!
YOUR COSMIC FIRES PAIN ME NOT.
MY RACE BATHED IN PRIMORDIAL LAVA!
SPEAKING OF BATHS, DON'TCHA THINK IT'S TIME YOU TAKE ONE? A GUY GETS GAMEY AFTER A FEW MILLION YEARS!
I GROW WEARY OF YOUR PRATTLE. RETURN NOW, TO THE MUD THAT SPAWNED YOU!
WSH! HIS BLAST'S SCATTERING THE SAND... HITTING ME LIKE A BRICK WALL!
FWOOSH
AND NOW FOR THE KILLING STROKE!
SAND IN EYES... CAN'T SEE! GOTTA LEAD HIM AWAY FROM CAMP!
DON'T FRET, TORCH. I'LL KEEP RODAN BUSY WHILE YOUR VISION CLEARS!
THE GREENSKIN AGAIN!
THAT TERM'S RESERVED FOR MY COUSIN, UGLY.
I MUCH PREFER "JADE GIANTESS."
I'D PREFER YOUR CORPSE SLIDING DOWN MY GULLET!

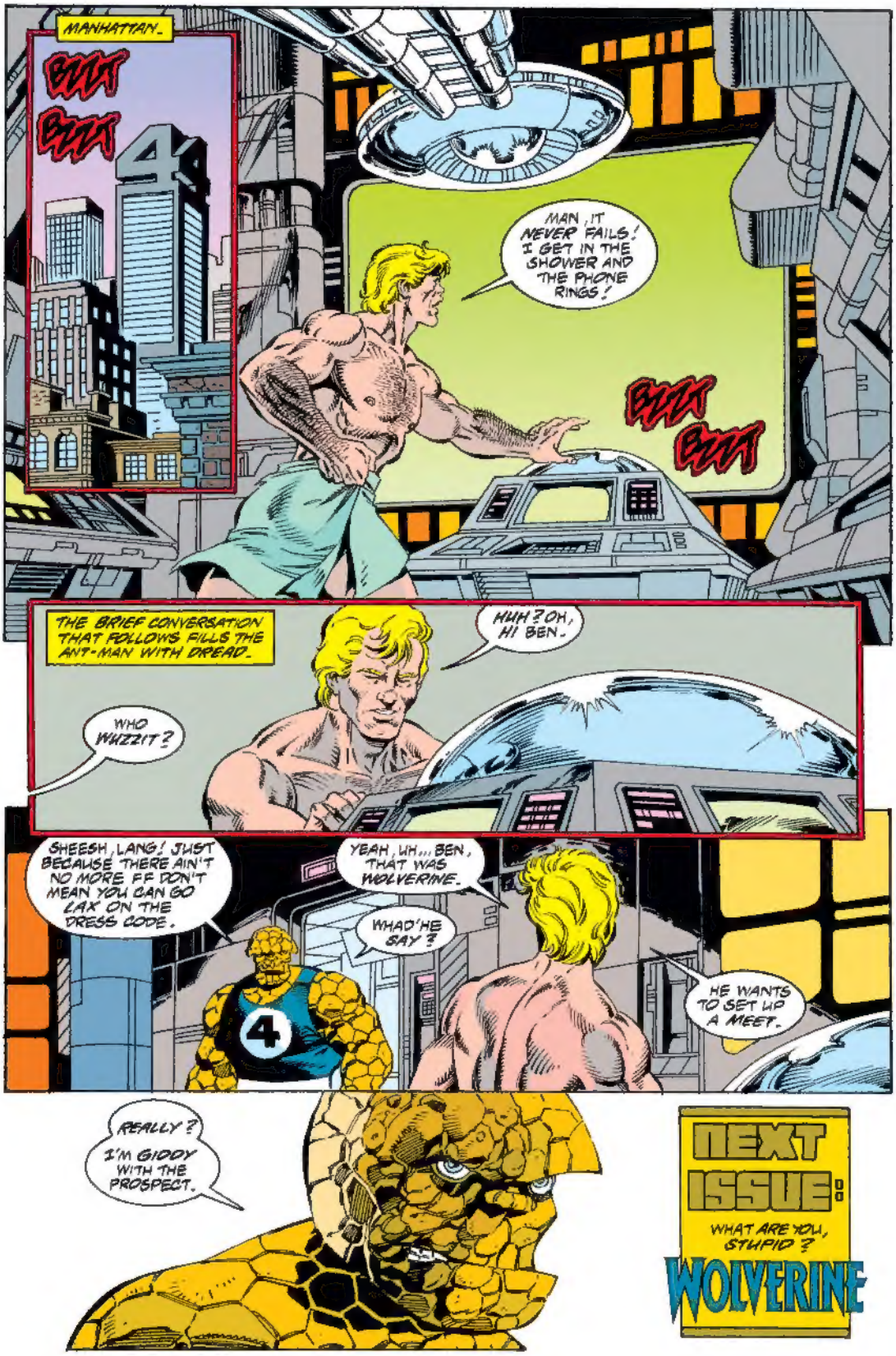

STALKING FOX, IF YOU KNOW OF ANY WAY WE MIGHT DEFEAT THIS DEMON, THIS WOULD BE A MOST APPROPRIATE TIME TO SHARE YOUR KNOWLEDGE!
WE MUST FIND THE TOTEM, MR. WINGROOT. IT'S THE ONLY WAY WE CAN DESTROY THIS HORRID FOE.
THE DIG.
DESPITE BEING INCOGNITO, I CAN STILL JOIN THIS BATTLE AS A WARRIORESS BORN.
ALTHOUGH I HAVE NO WEAPONS, I AM FAR FROM HELPLESS!
POOT
I SHALL NOT FORSAKE JOHNNY IN HIS TIME OF NEED.
PUNT
WATCH OUT, LADY! ANGRY TOHO-REJECT AT TWELVE O'CLOCK!
TORCH! IGNITE THE FLAMMABLE LIQUID!
THE SPILT GASOLINE MAKES A NATURAL FUSE FOR WHAT COULD BE...
...A RUDE AWAKENING FOR RAPTOR!
HUH? YOU MEAN THE GAS?!
TORCH
OOH, I'VE GOTCHA! VERY SNEAKY, LADY.
THOOOM
ARRGH! UNDERHANDED DEVIOUSNESS!

WE'VE FOUND THE TOTEM, FOX. NOW WHAT DO WE DO WITH IT?
WE MUST HURRY, BEFORE MORE INNOCENT BLOOD SPILLS!
THIS IS MORE THAN A SIMPLE VESSEL FOR RAPTOR...
...BUT A CONDUIT WITH WHICH HIS BREED MAY ENTER THIS WORLD!
ONLY BY DESTROYING THE TOTEM WITH THE POWER OF THE SUN GOD MAY WE CLOSE THE DOOR TO THIS WORLD...
...AND FREE JANSON FROM HIS TERRIBLE TRANSFORMATION!
YOU MEAN...?
THAT THING IS THE PROF?!
NEVER MIND... WHERE DO YOU WANT THIS?
HOW ABOUT THE STRATOSPHERE?
NOT QUITE WHAT I HAD IN MIND BUT OKAY!
WHATCHA DOIN' WITH THAT?
BEATS ME, BUT WYATT SAYS TO NUKE IT!
GUESS THEY DON'T PLAY POKER WHERE YOU COME FROM!
YOU DARE SULLY A MOST CHERISHED ICON?!
RETURN TO ME MY PRECIOUS!

YOU REALLY SHOULDN'T HAVE SAID THAT, EITHER.
BETTER BREAK OUT THE MARSHMALLOWS, WE'RE HAVING A COOKOUT!
I DON'T BELIEVE IT! MY HEAT BLASTS HAVE NO EFFECT!
ALL IS LOST FOR YOU!
IDIOT!
ONLY THE MIGHT OF THE LONG-DEAD SHIV GODS CAN DESTROY THE TOTEM!
PRAY YOUR YOUNG FRIEND HAS ENOUGH POWER, MR. WINGFOOT. FOR IF NOT, ALL WILL SURELY PERISH.
GODSPEED, JOHNNY.
I KNOW YOU CAN DO IT, TORCH!
I HOPE SHULKY GETS THAT THING HIGH ENOUGH FOR ME TO USE MY NOVA BLAST. THERE WAS NO WAY I COULD'VE RISKED IT WITH THE OTHERS SO CLOSE!
THEY SHOULD KNOW ENOUGH TO CLOSE THEIR EYES. LIKE A SOLAR ECLIPSE, MY NOVA BLAST IS BRIGHT ENOUGH TO BLIND THEM!
WHEN I SAID I WANTED TO GO OUT ON MY OWN, I DIDN'T THINK IT'D BE LIKE THIS.
COME ON, TORCH... FLY FASTER THAN EVER BEFORE!


THE ONLY PROBLEM IN THIS PLAN IS THAT THE HIGHER I GO, THE THINNER THE AIR...
...AND THE MORE LIKELY FOR MY FLAME TO SUFFOCATE BEFORE I GO NOVA!
CAN'T THINK ABOUT FALLING.
CAN'T WORRY ABOUT DYING!
HAVE TO EXERT MY FULL POWER... FOCUS EVERYTHING INTO ONE CONTAINED BURST!
I MUST...
I MUST!


I DID IT!
I DESTROYED THE TOTEM!
BUT... THAT THING JUST CHANGED BACK TO THE PROF!
WHU...?
DON'T WORRY, FELLA, I'LL CATCH YOU! JUST GO LIMP!
YAUGHH!
PIPE DOWN ALREADY! YOU'RE SAFE!
ALTHOUGH YOU'D BETTER SCROUNGE UP SOME PANTS, QUICK! NO WAY ARE YOU COMICS CODE APPROVABLE!
YOU DID IT! SURELY THE BLOOD OF THE SUN GODS RUNS THROUGH YOUR VEINS!
WHAT HE SAID!
NO APPLAUSE NECESSARY, JUST MAKE YOUR CHECKS PAYABLE TO "BUY THIS MAN A TOGA!"
MY BEAUTIFUL TOTEM... YOU DESTROYED IT!
GEE, A GUY ALMOST DESTROYS ALL LIFE ON EARTH AND THEN HE GETS ON MY CASE!
OH JOHNNY, ARE YOU ALL RIGHT? YOU WERE SO BRAVE! I WAS SO SCARED!
RUINED...
IT'S OVER, BRIDGE. IT'S ALL OVER.
WHERE'S THAT BLONDE WHO HELPED ME BACK THERE? WHO WAS SHE? IS SHE WITH THE DIG?
I'VE GOTTA FIND OUT.
I'D REALLY LIKE TO GET TO KNOW HER.


MANHATTAN.
BUZZT BUZZT
4
MAN, IT NEVER FAILS! I GET IN THE SHOWER AND THE PHONE RINGS!
BUZZT BUZZT
THE BRIEF CONVERSATION THAT FOLLOWS FILLS THE ANT-MAN WITH DREAD.
HUH? OH, HI BEN.
WHO WUZZIT?
SHEESH, LANG! JUST BECAUSE THERE AIN'T NO MORE FF DON'T MEAN YOU CAN GO LAX ON THE DRESS CODE.
YEAH, UH... BEN, THAT WAS WOLVERINE.
WHAD'HE SAY?
HE WANTS TO SET UP A MEET.
REALLY? I'M GIDDY WITH THE PROSPECT.
NEXT ISSUE!
WHAT ARE YOU, STUPID?
WOLVERINE